

A WHEAT PRODUCER

Eight Mile the Principal
Grain District

OF MORROW COUNTY

Plateau Lands Rich in Wheat
Producing Qualities.

LARGE TRACTS FARMED

In Past Few Years Farmers Have
Been Spreading Out by Buy-
ing More Land--In-
creased Acreage.

In speaking of Morrow county and describing the resources in general, and especially when different sections are mentioned, the GAZETTE'S New Year number would not be complete without something to say of the most favored agricultural district known as the Eight Mile country. The name Eight Mile, originated from a creek which flows into Willow creek, eight miles from the Columbia river, and from this fact the creek was named Eight Mile. In later years the whole country drained by Eight Mile creek was given the name of Eight Mile.

The intention of this article is to deal with what is known as upper Eight Mile, which comprises that portion of country lying between Rhea creek on the East and Dry Fork on the West, this territory embracing about 150 square miles of fine farming lands.

Farming operations were commenced in this fertile district in the early 80's, and among the pioneers of husbandry can be mentioned J. H. Jones, A. B. Stanton, Bruce Haines, A. S. Haines and others.

This district of plateau lands is a great wheat country and is farmed extensively. The soil is very rich in wheat producing qualities and consequently the farmers are prosperous and well to do.

Early farming was carried on with considerable difficulty. With the first crops, for lack of cultivation, the yields were light, and the inroads of squirrels and rabbits cut deeply into the farmer's profit.

With cultivation the land has been greatly improved, and with the advent of civilization, the squirrels and rabbits have about disappeared. Today the farmers are growing big crops with not a great amount of labor compared with other wheat growing countries. Most of the land is summer fallowed, however, as many as three crops are harvested with one plowing.

During the past year there was a big acreage in wheat. Eighteen bushels would probably be about the average yield on summer fallowed land, the grain yielding all the way from 15 to 25 bushels per acre.

While this does not look big on paper, like reports from other wheat districts, where from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre are reported, a comparison of conditions will show that the Morrow county farmers have as great a profit, after expenses are paid, as any place in the country. Farming land is cheap and the lands are easily farmed. A farmer with one hired man can easily farm 500 acres. The farmers in this district, as a rule, use three bottom gang plows drawn by eight horses and one outfit can plow from six to nine acres per day. One man can plow 500 acres in a season.

J. W. Beckett farms from 350 to 650 acres. W. R. Robison cultivates about the same amount as Mr. Beckett, and among other large farmers are Luther Huston, John and Charley Huston, C. E. Jones, Peter Brenner, J. S. Young, D. S. Barlow and others.

In the past few years, farmers have been spreading out by buying more land and increasing their acreage.

Most of the best farming lands are in cultivation in the upper Eight Mile country. In the past two years land values have increased from 25 to 50 per cent. Good improved farms are now worth about \$10 per acre. Land recently sold, brought \$1000 to \$1500 per quarter.

Being asked as to the advantages claimed for the Eight Mile country, a prominent resident of that district said: "I believe that the man with small means and who is willing to work, can get a start easier, and can come as near making money here as any place in the United States. The same amount of energy expended here as is required in the East and other places, will bring success to any man."

For many years the lack of water has been a great handicap in the Eight Mile country, but this difficulty is now being eliminated by the sinking of wells. These wells are being drilled by a professional driller, and plenty of water is found at a depth of from 90 to 175 feet. The expense of drilling these wells is not great.

Eight Mile's public school facilities are very good considering the fact that it is a new country and sparsely settled.

The principal disadvantages of Eight Mile are the fact that it is a new country and handicapped by isolation.

Oregon's death rate is very low. The healthfulness of Pacific Coast climate is known the world over. The conditions conducive to good health in Morrow county are admirable.

HEPPNER A LODGE TOWN

Fraternal Societies Well Represented--Good Membership.

GOOD PLACE FOR "JINERS"

The People Are Well United in
Fraternalism and Protection--
Lodges Are Prospering.

Heppner has long been known as a good town for "jiners" and is probably as well represented with secret orders as any town in Oregon, according to its population, and its people are well united in fraternalism and protection.

The first lodge to be organized in Heppner was the Masonic, the charter being granted to Heppner Lodge, No. 69, A. F. & A. M. June 12, 1877. They meet in their own hall on the first and third Saturdays of each month and have eighty members in good standing. Their officers for 1903 are as follows: W. M., Henry Jones; S. W., H. A. Emerson; J. W., C. C. Patterson; Treasurer, Geo. Noble; Secy., Leon W. Briggs; S. D., W. W. Lipsett; J. D., Robt. S. Morgan; Tyler, Thos. W. Ayers, Sr.; Stewards, John L. Ayers and E. P. Michell.

Heppner Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons, was organized February 20, 1893, and now has 74 members in good standing. Their principal officers are Frank Gilliam, High Priest; P. O. Borg, King; A. Andrews, Scribe; Geo. Conser, Secy., and J. A. Patterson, Treasurer.

Willow Lodge, No. 66, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized Nov. 20, 1878, with a charter membership of nine, five of whom are still living, and now have a total membership of 71. Their principal officers are Geo. Noble, N. G.; E. C. Ashbaugh, V. G.; A. M. Gunn, Secy., and M. Lichtenthal, Treasurer. In 1902 the Odd Fellows completed a handsome two story stone building at a cost of about \$32,000, the lower floor of which is occupied by the firm of Minor & Co., and the upper floor is the home of the lodge, with offices in front, which are all occupied. The dedication of this fine building will occur some time during the first of this year. This lodge meets on Wednesday of each week.

The Knights of Pythias are represented by Doric Lodge No. 20, and have a membership of 60 in good standing. This lodge meets on Tuesday of each week in their Castle hall, which is elegantly furnished with emblematic carpet and appropriate lodge furniture. Their officers for the new year are as follows: D. O. Justus, C. C.; W. A. Richardson, V. C.; Thos. Brennan, Prelate; S. P. Devin, M. of W.; W. W. Smead, K. of R. and S.; Frank Borg, M. of F.; W. L. Saling, M. of E.; Wm. Latrace, M. at A.; B. B. Kelley, I. G.; J. C. Borchers, O. G.; Trustees, J. H. Roberts, E. L. Freeland, Jas. Hart. Doric Lodge has the honor of being the smallest lodge in the state to entertain the Grand Lodge, which they did in 1895. They have also in connection the Uniform and Endowment Ranks.

On July 7, 1897, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized under the name of Heppner Lodge, No. 358, with a charter membership of 30, which has since increased to over 70 and still rapidly growing. They meet in the K. of P. hall on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Their officers are: E. R., Frank Roberts; E. Leading Knight, A. D. McAtee; E. Loyal Knight, J. A. Woolery; E. Lecturing Knight, P. O. Borg; Secy., James Hart; Treasurer, Frank Gilliam; Esq., R. F. Hynd; Tyler, Harry Johnson; Chaplain, H. W. Bartholomew; I. G., Geo. Lund; Trustees, Geo. Conser, E. L. Freeland, J. S. Harris.

The Ancient and United Order of Workmen was organized on August 25, 1871, under the title of Whitmore Lodge No. 45. They have 61 members and other applications on the way. They meet in the K. of P. Hall on the

first and third Thursdays of each month. The M. W. is J. T. Kirk; Financier, J. J. Roberts, and Recorder, E. L. Freeland. Their sister lodge, Kate J. Young Lodge No. 29, Degree of Honor, meets in the same hall on the first and third Wednesdays of each month with 30 members in good standing. Their principal officers are C. of H., Sarah E. Padberg; Recorder, Mattie T. Smead, and Financier, Effie Gilliam.

Juniper Camp No. 7516, Modern Woodmen of America meet in the K. of P. Hall on the first Saturday of each month and have a list of 31 members. Their chief officers are J. T. Kirk, C. C. and J. S. Boyer, clerk.

The Woodmen of the World meet in the K. of P. hall on the second and fourth Friday nights of each month and have a membership of about 45. Ed. Brown is Consul Commander and J. L. Yeager, Clerk. The title of the Camp is Heppner Camp No. 60.

Court Heppner No. 44, Order of Foresters, was organized during the latter part of last year and has a membership of about 110; they meet in the Odd Fellows hall on the first and third Satur-

days of each month; T. A. Driskell is Chief Ranger; J. L. Yeager, Clerk.

The Artisans have an organization of 20 members. J. D. Brown is Master Artisan and Mrs. J. D. Brown, Secy.

The Grand Army of the Republic is also represented with a membership of about 20 and the sister lodge, the Women's Relief Corps has 20 members.

The Native Sons of Oregon have a cabin of 26 members. E. L. Freeland, President and M. B. Galloway, Clerk.

The members of any of these orders visiting Heppner are cordially invited to attend the meeting of their respective lodges and any letter of inquiry or information directed to the clerk or other officer of the lodge will be promptly answered. Any stranger will find in Heppner the warm hand of fraternalism extended.

E. L. FREELAND.

There can be no mistake in buying real estate here. Land values are steadily increasing and will continue to increase.

When You Arrive in Heppner

Go straight to the

STAR LODGING HOUSE

Good Room--Good Bed for 25 cents.

We are Holding a Room for You.

For a Good Shave

V. Gentry's Barber Shop is the place. Bath rooms in connection. Stylish hair cuts. Expert workmen. Every thing clean. Two doors north Palace Hotel.

Heppner, : : : Oregon.

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Dealer in Gents Furnishings, Notions, etc. Wall paper in handsome and stylish designs. Books and Stationery.

Heppner - - - Oregon.

J. R. SIMONS

The Pioneer Blacksmith

GENERAL BLACKSMITHING



I have a complete shop in connection for wood work and wagon making.

Horseshoeing

All kinds of horses shod in scientific manner. All work guaranteed.

REPAIRING OF ALL KINDS DONE

At the Old Stand, Main Street

HEPPNER, - - - OREGON.

BLACK BUTTE COAL MINES

Reorganization for Prospecting the
Old Matteson District.

The extent of the Morrow county coal fields is unknown. It is claimed by coal experts and geologists that the field is large, extending for a distance of 40 miles east and west.

The Black Butte Railroad and Coal Company, is the name of a corporation composed of Heppner people, which was organized for the purpose of thoroughly prospecting the Matteson district, where the original discoveries were made in Morrow county.

The officers of this corporation are: President, Thomas Quaid; vice-president, Edgar Matteson; secretary-treasurer, Henry Blackman.

While coal measures have not yet been located in this field, the fact that coal was taken out years ago, with the poorest appliances and with little knowledge of mining, a great many people are of the opinion, that with proper methods, and the employment of experts, the Matteson district will yet prove to be a good field. The Black Butte Railroad and Coal Company was organized for the purpose of determining the extent of this field.

The company now controls about 3000 acres of coal and timber lands in this district, and as soon as spring opens, will begin active prospect work. The prospect is located about 20 miles south of Heppner.